

What is claimed is:

1 1. An improved night light, comprising:

2 a housing suitable for connecting to an electrical outlet;

3 a bulb mounted on the housing;

4 a control circuit within the housing for connecting the bulb to electrical power; and

5 means within the control circuit for controlling brightness of the bulb when the bulb is

6 on.

1 2. The improved night light of Claim 1, wherein the controlling means controls the  
2 brightness of the bulb in a continuously variable manner.

1 3. The improved night light of Claim 2, wherein the control circuit is a solid state controller.

1 4. The improved night light of Claim 1, wherein the controlling means controls the  
2 brightness of the bulb in a stepwise manner.

1 5. The improved night light of Claim 1, wherein the control circuit includes a photosensitive  
2 device for turning the bulb on and off as a function of ambient light levels.

1 6. The night light of Claim 1, wherein housing is sealed to be weathertight, whereby it is  
2 suitable for use outdoors.

1 7. The night light of Claim 1, wherein the controlling means includes a rotary switch having  
2 a portion extending from the housing and suitable for manipulation by a user.

1 8. The night light of Claim 1, wherein the controlling means is manipulated by a user turning  
2 a portion of the housing itself with respect to the remainder of the housing.

1 9. An improved night light, comprising:  
2 an outlet box cover adapted to mount over an electrical outlet in an outlet box;  
3 a light transmitting cover plate over a portion of the outlet box cover, positioned so as to  
4 cover a first electrical outlet when the outlet box cover is installed over the outlet box;  
5 conductive blades extending from the outlet box cover behind the cover plate for insertion  
6 into the first electrical outlet;  
7 a bulb mounted under the cover plate; and  
8 a control circuit within the outlet box cover, connected to the blades and the bulb, to  
9 control operation of the bulb.

1 10. The night light of Claim 9, wherein the control circuit includes a photosensitive device  
2 to turn the bulb on and off as a function of ambient light levels.

1 11. The night light of Claim 9, wherein the control circuit includes an on/off switch.

1 12. The night light of Claim 9, wherein the cover plate is transparent.

1 13. The night light of Claim 9, further comprising:

2 a hinged door connected to the outlet box cover, and positioned to cover a second  
3 electrical outlet and protect it from the weather, wherein the outlet box cover seals the outlet box  
4 to make it weathertight.

1 14. The night light of Claim 9, wherein the outlet box cover is sized to cover an outlet box  
2 containing two electrical outlets.

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1 15. An improved night light for outdoor use, comprising:  
2 a housing which is sealed against weather;  
3 blades connected to the housing for insertion into an electrical outlet;  
4 a bulb mounted in a socket connected to the housing;  
5 a light transmitting cover plate connected to the housing and covering the bulb; and  
6 a control circuit within the housing which controls operation of the bulb.

1 16. The night light of Claim 15, wherein the cover plate is sealed against the weather.

1 17. The night light of Claim 16, wherein the cover plate has a base which is sealed to the  
2 housing with an O-ring.

1 18. The night light of Claim 15, wherein the housing included a gasket to provide a seal  
2 against the weather.

1 19. The night light of Claim 15, wherein the control circuit is an on and off control for the  
2 bulb.

1 20. The night light of Claim 19, wherein the control circuit includes a photosensitive device  
2 to control operation off the bulb in response to ambient light levels.

1 21. The night light of Claim 15, wherein the control circuit includes a motion detector to turn  
2 the night light on in response to movement nearby.